



- City of Raleigh Will Collect Discarded Christmas Trees At The Curb
- City Accepting Applications for Community Enhancement Grants
- N.C. Modernist Houses Presenting Program On Raleigh Historic Landmark Designation
- The Great Outdoors, Pharmacology, Making Noise Start Convention Center's Year
- Forbes Reports Raleigh's Attractiveness To 'Prime-Age Workers'
- Winners Announced for 11th Annual National Arts Program Exhibition at Block Gallery

- Second Round of Leaf Collections Begins in Zones 6 and 9 Dec. 30
- City to Observe New Year's Day Holiday on Jan. 1
- Follow the City of Raleigh on Twitter
- Follow the City of Raleigh on Facebook
- Traffic Alerts

City of Raleigh Will Collect Discarded Christmas Trees At The Curb



Raleigh residents can dispose of their Christmas trees by simply placing them at the curb with regular yard waste on their scheduled collection day.

Be sure to remove all bags, stands, lights, tinsel, ornaments and other non-vegetative items from the tree before placing it at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on the collection day. Do not put trees at the curbside prior to your collection day. Artificial trees being discarded should be disassembled and placed in the garbage cart. City crews will also collect natural wreaths for recycling; any wires, metal or bows must be removed from wreaths before they are placed on the curb for pickup.

The City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department also is collecting discarded natural Christmas trees from multifamily complexes. To arrange for a collection, complex managers should call 919-996-6890.

The Solid Waste Services Department recycles natural Christmas trees into wood chips and mulch. The products are sold to the general public at the City's Yard Waste Center, 900 N. New Hope Road. For more information, contact the Yard Waste Center at 919-250-2728.

Please note that because Christmas fell on a Wednesday, there is a change in the curbside collection schedule for garbage, recycling and yard waste. Residents scheduled to receive service on Christmas Day will be served today. Thursday's regularly scheduled routes will be served on Friday, Dec. 27, and routes scheduled for Friday service will be collected on Saturday, Dec. 28.

The City will use the same holiday collection schedule next week due to New Year's Day. Tuesday's regularly scheduled routes will be collected as normal. However service to all other routes will be pushed back one day. Residents scheduled to receive service on Wednesday, New Year's Day, will be served on Thursday, Jan. 2. Thursday's regularly scheduled routes will be served on Friday, Jan. 3, and routes scheduled for Friday service will be collected on Saturday, Jan. 4. Regular waste collection service will be provided to the Central Business District on New Year's Day.

The Yard Waste Center will be closed on New Year's Day. It reopens on Jan. 2.

For more information, contact 919.996.6278

City Accepting Applications for Community Enhancement Grants

The City of Raleigh Community Development Department has announced that \$175,000 in federal Community Development Block Grants will be made available to the 2014-2015 community enhancement grant program. The grant money will be awarded to local public service projects that meet eligibility requirements of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department.

The deadline to apply for community enhancement grants is Feb. 21. For program contact Joe Rappl with the City of Raleigh Community Development Department at 919-996-6961 or joseph.rappl@raleighnc.gov.

N.C. Modernist Houses Presenting Program On Raleigh Historic Landmark Designation

North Carolina Modernist Houses is hosting an information session on the process used to designate a Modernist home a Raleigh Historic Landmark. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at The Raleigh Grande, 4840 Grove Barton Road. Admission is \$9 and includes viewing the movie "If You Build It" that will follow the program.

The guest speaker at the program will be Nick Fountain, who will share his experiences on designating the Fadum House a Raleigh Historic Landmark. Mr. Fountain owns the Fadum House. He will also talk about how he worked with the staff of the City of Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC) to complete the rehabilitation of the Fadum House that included a significant addition. RHDC staff members will also attend the program to discuss historic landmarking, including tax benefits.

Mr. Fountain served on the RHDC for six years, including as chair of the body's Certificate of Appropriateness Committee. He is currently chair of the City's Historic Resources and Museum Advisory Board.

For more information about the Jan. 8 program, visit www.trianglemodernisthouses.com or www.rhdc.org. or call 919.996.2649.

The Great Outdoors, Pharmacology, Making Noise Start Convention Center's Year

The thrill and passion of the great outdoors will fill the Raleigh Convention Center the entire first week of 2014. North America's largest outdoor sporting goods distributor, Big Rock Sports, will attract 4,000 attendees to its dealer show Jan. 6 – 12. Be it fishing, hunting, shooting camping or marine related it will be up for conversation and inspection all week long.

Pharmacology will be a major theme from mid to later January with a week-long meeting of Salix Pharmaceuticals butting up against a four-day Zoetis Global conference. Salix is a specialty pharmaceutical company with the mission of preventing and treating gastrointestinal ailments. Zoetis is the owner of a diverse portfolio of animal health medicines and vaccines for veterinarians and livestock farmers.

The Raleigh Convention Center will be loud and lively Jan. 25 as it hosts the Raleigh Rumble – a Cheer and Dance Extreme open championship. Five hundred peppy, perky "pom-pomers" will be competing.

The potpourri that is the Raleigh Convention Centers staple rounds out the month with a Carolina Roofing & Sheet Metal Contractors Association conference bringing 600 to the Capital City Jan. 21-23; the Carolinas/Tennessee Verizon Wireless confab of 500, Jan. 21-22; the Methodist Home for Children's Winter's Tale Gala; and a three-day gathering of North Carolina's community college presidents.

For a complete calendar of January events at the Raleigh Convention Center, visit www.raleighconvention.com.

Forbes Reports Raleigh's Attractiveness To 'Prime-Age Workers'

Raleigh's 7.4 percent increase between 2007 and 2012 in the number of "workers in their prime" is the fourth largest rise in the nation, according to a study by demographer Wendell Cox. Forbes.com reported the study's findings.

The analysis identified the ages 30 to 44 as "workers in their prime." This age group "seems very sensitive to both job markets and housing prices," the study concluded. High-cost urban areas did poorly in attracting this group. Aside from Washington, D.C., the top 10 cities attracting these prime-age workers boast strengthening private-sector economies and relatively low housing prices. Three of the top 10 prime-age magnet cities are in Florida, while Texas and North Carolina claim two each. Charlotte's growth rate of 7.2 percent places it fifth in the nation.

The following is the top 10 list:

1. New Orleans, 19.3 percent;
2. Miami, 8.3 percent;
3. San Antonio, 7.8 percent;
4. Raleigh, 7.4 percent;
5. Charlotte, 7.2 percent;
6. Washington, D.C., 5.1 percent;
7. Tampa, 4.2 percent;
8. Orlando, 4.0 percent;
9. Houston, 3.8 percent; and,
10. Oklahoma City, 3.7 percent.

Winners Announced for 11th Annual National Arts Program Exhibition at Block Gallery

The 11th Annual National Arts Program Exhibition featuring artwork by City of Raleigh and Wake County employees and their families is on display through Jan. 15, 2014 in the Miriam Preston Block Art Gallery at the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett Street. The exhibition is sponsored by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County and the City of Raleigh Arts Commission in collaboration with The National Arts Program Foundation Inc. of Malvern, Pennsylvania.

The National Arts Program is designed to give all artists, at every skill level, an opportunity to exhibit their artwork in a professional manner. Judges for this year's exhibition were Shana Dumont Garr, Director of Programs and Exhibitions at Artspace in Raleigh; and Jason Craighead, Commissioner with the City of Raleigh Arts Commission. All prizes and awards are funded by the National Arts Program.

The winners and their prize amounts for this year are:

Best in Show

Ian Brown (10 years old), relative of County employee, Public Libraries (\$300)

People's Choice Award

Donnell Perry, City Employee, Planning and Development

Amateur

1st: Lindsay Hester, City employee, Public Works (\$300)

2nd: Kaitlyn Pechanek, relative of County employee, Human Resources (\$200)

3rd: Richard Bailey, City employee, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (\$100)

Honorable Mention: Shelton Darden, City employee, Public

Utilities
Honorable Mention: Julie Pechanek, relative of County employee, Human Resources

Intermediate

1st: Bryan Edwards, relative of County employee, Wake County Public Schools System (WCPSS) (\$300)

2nd: Malinda RB Wilson, relative of City employee, Solid Waste Services (\$200)

3rd: Sherry Paylor, relative of County employee, WCPSS (\$100)

Professional

1st: Jean Chevalier, City employee, Convention Center (\$300)

2nd: Sarah West, City employee, Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources (\$200)

3rd: Susan Soper, City employee, Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources (\$100)

Honorable Mention: Jean Gray Mohs, County employee, WCPSS

Honorable Mention: Arron Foster, County employee, WCPSS

Honorable Mention: Anna Ludwig, relative of County employee, Human Resources

Youth

1st: Penelope Hobbs (7 years old) relative of City employee, Planning and Development (\$75)

2nd: Shiloh Craps (2 years old), relative of City employee, Public Works (\$50)

3rd: Benjamin Sherman (7 years old) relative of County employee, WCPSS (\$25)

Teen

1st: Leah Purvis (16 years old) relative of City employee, Convention Center (\$75)

2nd: Ian McCay (17 years old) relative of City employee, Public Affairs (\$50)

3rd: Erin Baker (16 years old) relative of City employee, City Manager's office (\$25)

Connecting local artists to community through ongoing exhibitions and public outreach, the Block Gallery was dedicated in 2006 to honor Miriam Preston Block, a former Raleigh City Council member and community leader. Greeting all visitors to the Upchurch Government Complex, the gallery's marble walls and elegant staircase provide an ideal setting for showcasing original artworks. Exhibits change every eight to 12 weeks.

Managed by the City of Raleigh's Office of Raleigh Arts, the Block Gallery is located on the first and second floors of the Upchurch Government Complex, located at 222 W. Hargett St. The gallery is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on holidays.

The Office of Raleigh Arts, a part of the City of Raleigh's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, supports and promotes the arts in Raleigh by administering the programs of the Raleigh Arts Commission and the Public Art and Design Board and supporting the Pullen and Sertoma arts centers.

For more information about the National Arts Program exhibition, contact the Office of Raleigh Arts at 919-996-3610 or email Annah Lee, Block Gallery coordinator, at annah.lee@raleighnc.gov; or Eleanor H. Oakley, United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, at 839-1498, extension 203 or eoakley@unitedarts.org.

Second Round of Leaf Collections Begins in Zones 6 and 9 Dec. 30

If you missed the first round of the City of Raleigh's annual loose leaf collection service, a second chance is coming your way. The second round of the loose leaf collection service will begin after Christmas.

Raleigh residents should check the leaf collection calendar available on the City's website to determine when the second round will begin in their area. Updates are also available on the Leaf Line at 919-996-3720 (available 24/7) and on Raleigh Television Network channel 22.

Loose leaves should be piled between the sidewalk and the back of the curb just prior to the scheduled collection week. A properly prepared leaf pile is one that contains loose leaves with no other yard waste, and is out in the open and away from obstructions such as vehicles or mail boxes. For safety reasons loose leaves should not be placed in the street.

Trucks full of collected leaves drop their loads in a composting pile at the City of Raleigh Yard Waste Center at 900 N. New Hope Road. The leaves are spread out and spend the next two to three years decomposing and transforming into perfect composting material.

In the spring of 2016 the compost formed by the recently collected leaves will be moved to the sales area at the Yard Waste Center, where it can be purchased by avid gardeners and landscapers throughout the area. The cost for a full-size pickup load is \$25.00.

City to Observe New Year's Day Holiday on Jan. 1

The City of Raleigh will observe the New Year's Day holiday on Wednesday, Jan. 1. Most administrative offices will be closed. Emergency police, fire and rescue services may be reached by calling 9-1-1.

Because New Year's Day is on a Wednesday this year, there will be a change in the curbside collection schedule for garbage, recycling and yard waste.

Tuesday's regularly scheduled routes will be collected as normal. However service to all other routes will be pushed back one day. Residents scheduled to receive service on Wednesday (New Year's Day) will be served on Thursday, Jan. 2. Thursday's regularly scheduled routes will be served on Friday, Jan. 3, and routes scheduled for Friday service will be collected on Saturday, Jan. 4. Regular service will be provided to the Central Business District on New Year's Day. View the Service Schedule for more information.

The Yard Waste Center will be closed on New Year's Day. It will reopen on Jan. 2.

Capital Area Transit (CAT) buses and Triangle Transit Authority express bus routes operated by CAT are not running on New Year's Day. Regular bus service resumes on Jan. 2.

Follow the City of Raleigh on Twitter



Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter! Twitter is a free service that allows you to "follow" people or subjects via short, frequent updates.

The City of Raleigh now offers Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest news and breaking events. Currently, the City maintains the following accounts:

RaleighGov - This feed features links to any news releases and alerts issued by the City of Raleigh;

RaleighBPAC - This feed features information from the City of Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission;

RaleighParks - This feed features news and information related to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department;

RaleighPlanning - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Planning and Development Department;

RalCommServices - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Community Services Department;

RW911 - This feed features traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center;

RaleighGoGreen - This feed features news and information from the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program.

RalPublicArt - This feed features information about the City of Raleigh Arts Commission Public Art Program.

To follow any of these, simply choose "Find People" from your Twitter home page and type in the account name you are interested in and then click "follow." It's that easy.

Follow the City of Raleigh on Facebook



City of Raleigh - The main City of Raleigh Facebook page keeps you informed about events, holidays and other news items.

City of Raleigh Planning and Development - The Raleigh Planning and Development page provides guidance for the growth, preservation and development of the City of Raleigh in order to maintain a community of lasting value.

City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department - Keep with news and information from the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department.

Community Services Department - The Community Services Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagement and other 911 related happenings.

Raleigh Police Department - The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more.

Raleigh Public Art - Raleigh Arts Commission's Public Art program is an essential building block for the creation of engaging, imaginative spaces throughout the city. Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagement and other 911 related happenings.

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Raleigh Public Art - Raleigh Arts Commission's Public Art program is an essential building block for the creation of engaging, imaginative spaces throughout the city.

Traffic Alerts

For more City of Raleigh News and Updates on Road Closures, Parades and Road Races, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov.

Street Closings

First Friday Closings

On First Friday of each month, from 6 p.m. to midnight, the 00 block of Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and Wilmington Street will be closed. This closure will also include the south side sidewalk of the block.

Center Road to Close for Water Line Replacement Starting Jan. 6

The City of Raleigh will close Center Road to complete a water line replacement project.

The work will be done in two phases. Phase I begins at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 6, on Center Road from East Whitaker Mill Road to Georgetown Road. This phase is expected to be complete on Saturday, Jan. 11. Beginning Monday, Jan. 13, the project will continue to Phase II along Center Road from Georgetown Road to Pershing Road. Phase II is expected to be complete on Saturday, Jan. 18.

The project may be delayed or rescheduled depending on weather conditions. Customers on Center Road should expect brief interruptions of water service but will receive notification in advance.

December 31 Traffic will be affected downtown for the annual **First Night Celebration**. The 00 block of Edenton Street will be closed from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. The following parking spaces will be encumbered from 3 a.m. on December 31 until 5 a.m. on January 1:

- The 00 blocks of Davie, Martin, Hargett, and South streets;
- Parking spaces on the north side of the 00 block of Edenton Street;
- Parking spaces on the south side of the 00 block of Jones Street;
- Parking spaces on the 100 through 500 blocks of Fayetteville Street; and,
- Both City parking lots in the block bounded by Lenoir, Salisbury, South, and Wilmington streets.

Also, the 100 and 200 blocks of Fayetteville Street and the 00 block of Hargett Street will be closed from 9 a.m. on Monday, December 30 until 12 p.m. on January 1. The 300 through 500 blocks of Fayetteville Street, the 00 blocks of Martin and Davie streets, the 00 blocks of Lenoir and South Street, and the travel lanes of the 00 block of Morgan Street will be closed from 6 a.m. on December 31 until noon on January 1.

January 12 Traffic will be affected downtown from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a road race. The group will assemble on the 100 block of E. Edenton Street. They will travel west to Hillsborough Street. They will turn right on Oberlin Road, turn left on the traffic circle, left on Pullen Road, right at the Pullen traffic circle, and turn right on Hillsborough Street where they will return to the finish line.

January 18 Traffic will be affected between 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. for a march. The 200 block of W. Hargett Street will be closed at 1:30 p.m. Parking in the 200 block of W. Hargett Street will be prohibited from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The group will assemble in Nash Square and proceed to W. Hargett Street, they will turn left on S. McDowell Street, turn left and travel north to W. Edenton Street, turn left and end at the Sacred Heart Cathedral.



While the acorn has become synonymous with First Night Raleigh, the festival is much more than the countdown to midnight. For all the details, visit www.firstnightraleigh.com

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